

爱因斯坦探针(EP)科学讨论会

June 6, 2023

Probing Black Hole Astrophysics with X-Ray Nuclear Transients: TDEs, QPEs and Changing-Look AGNs



Lixin Dai

戴丽心

The University of Hong Kong

What can we learn from the X-ray nuclear transients?

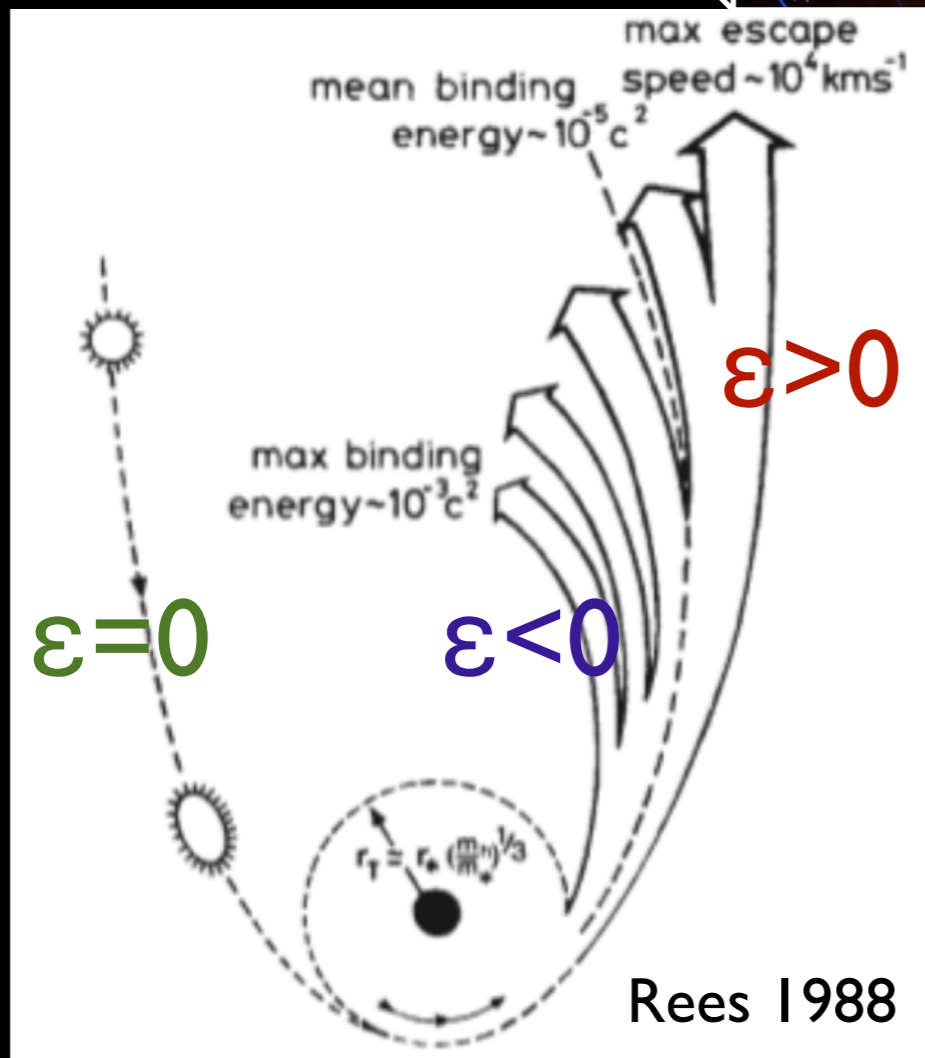
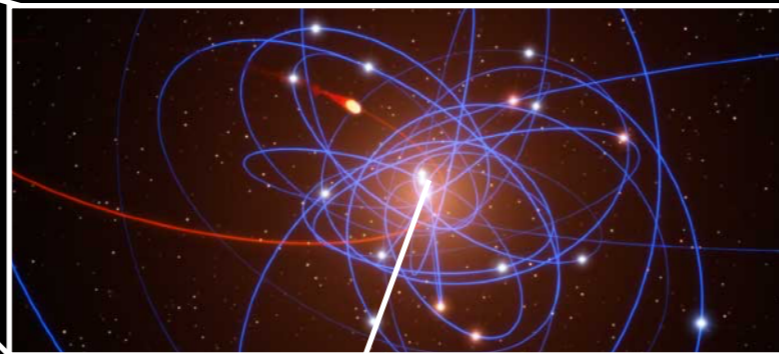
- ★ Tidal disruption events
- ★ Quasi-periodic eruptions
- ★ Changing-look AGNs

10-100 kpc

Tidal Disruption Events

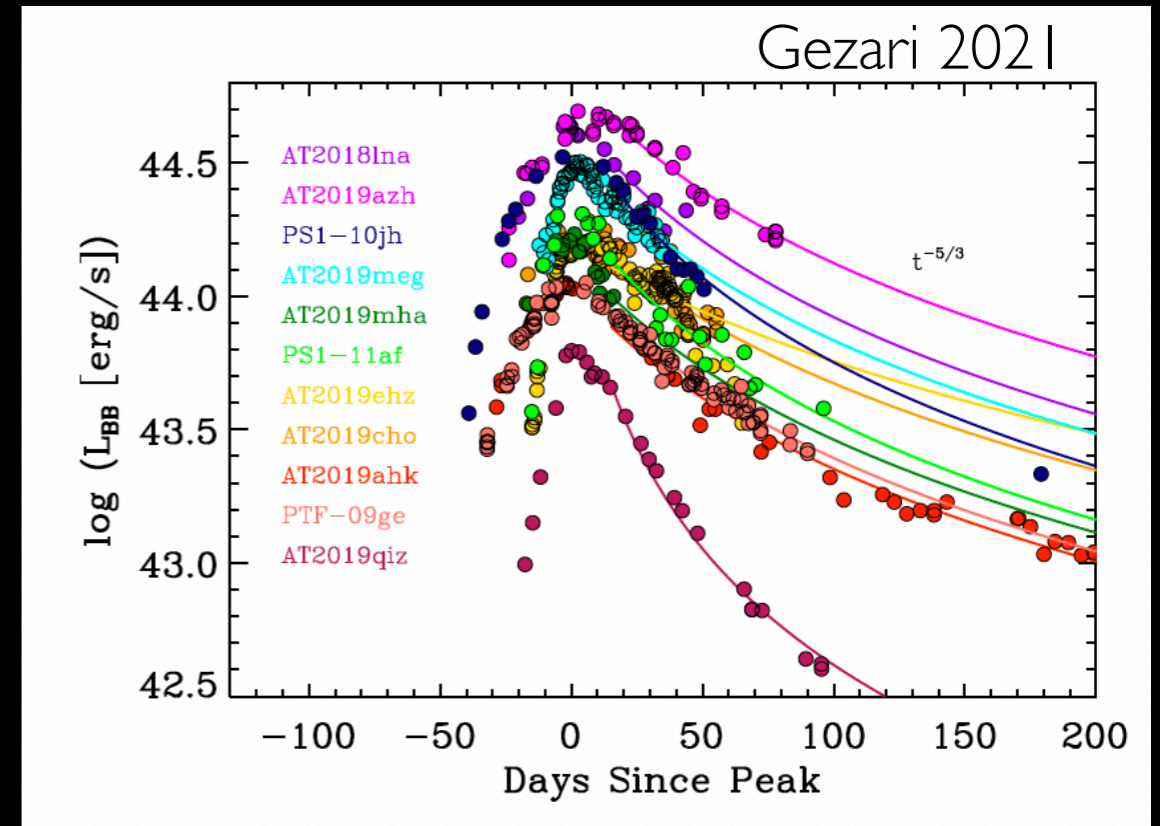
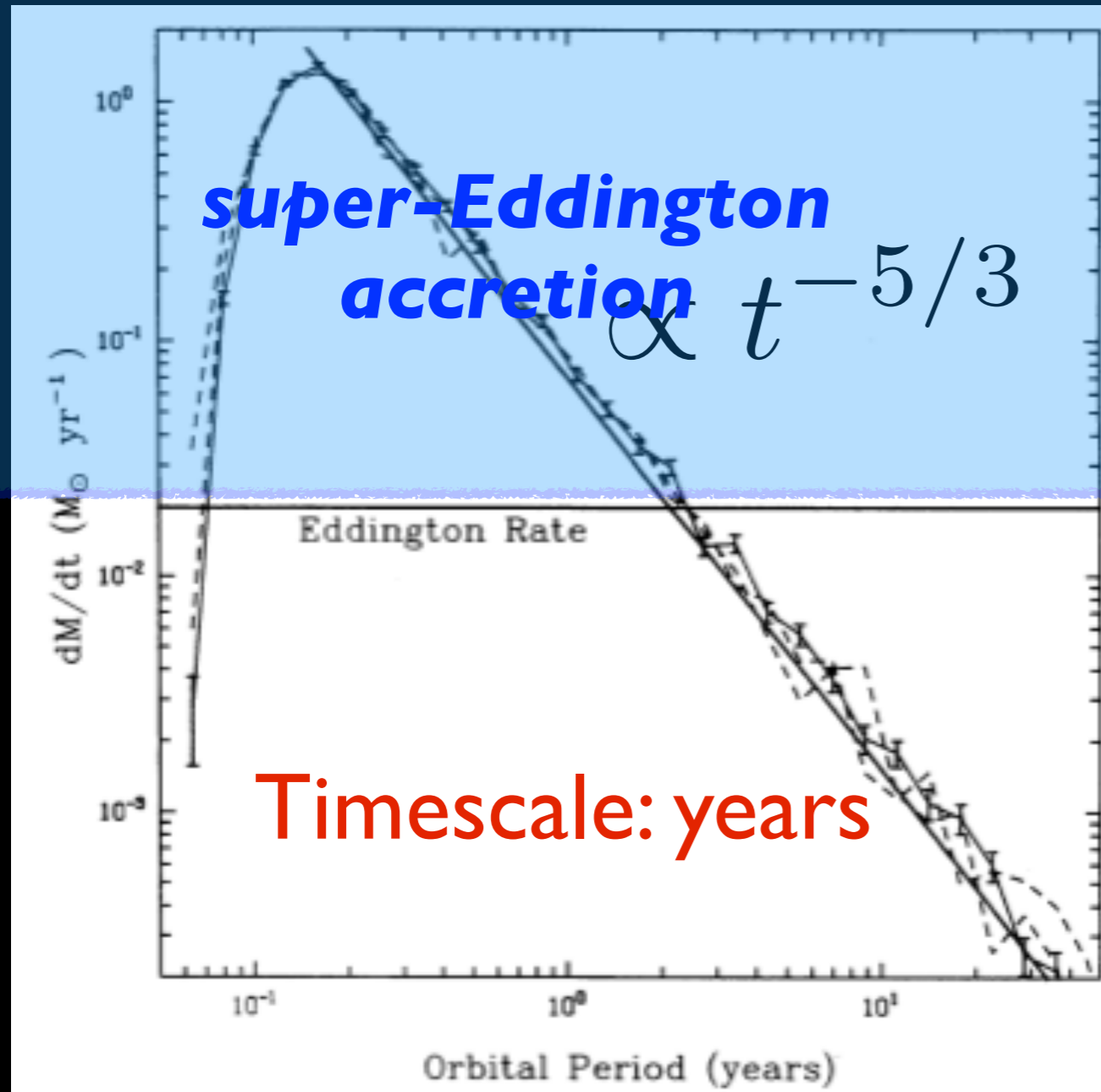


1 parsec



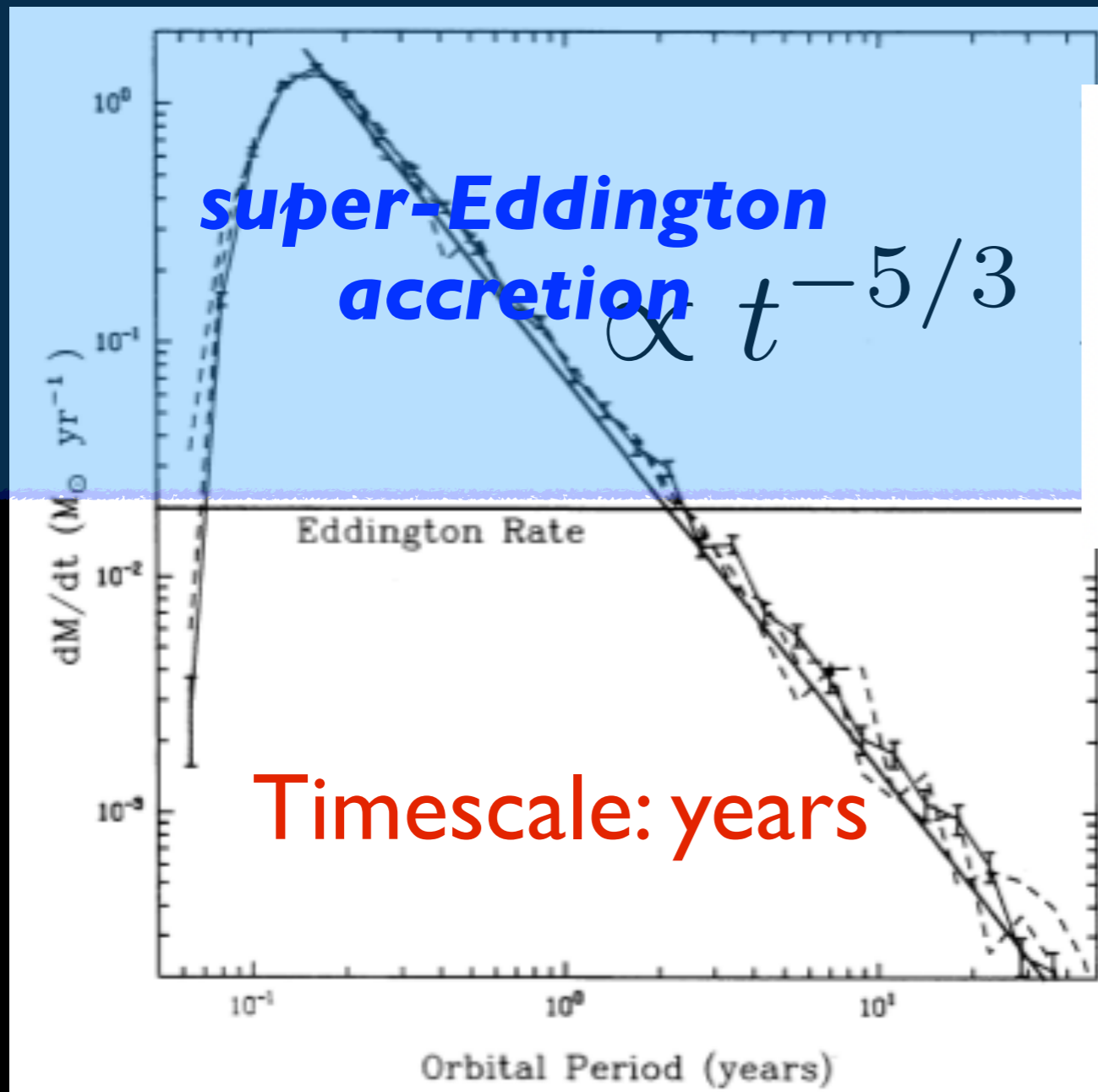
MBH tidal force $>$
stellar self-gravity

Debris Fallback Rate



Evans & Kochanek 1989; Phinney 1989; Lodato et al. 2009; Guillochon & Ramirez-Ruiz 2013; Tejada et al. 2017; Golightly et al. 2019; Gafton & Rosswog 2019; Ryu et al. 2020

Debris Fallback Rate



$$\dot{M} = \frac{dM}{dt} = \frac{dM}{dE} \frac{dE}{dt} = \frac{M_{\star}}{3t_{\min}} \left(\frac{t}{t_{\min}} \right)^{-5/3},$$

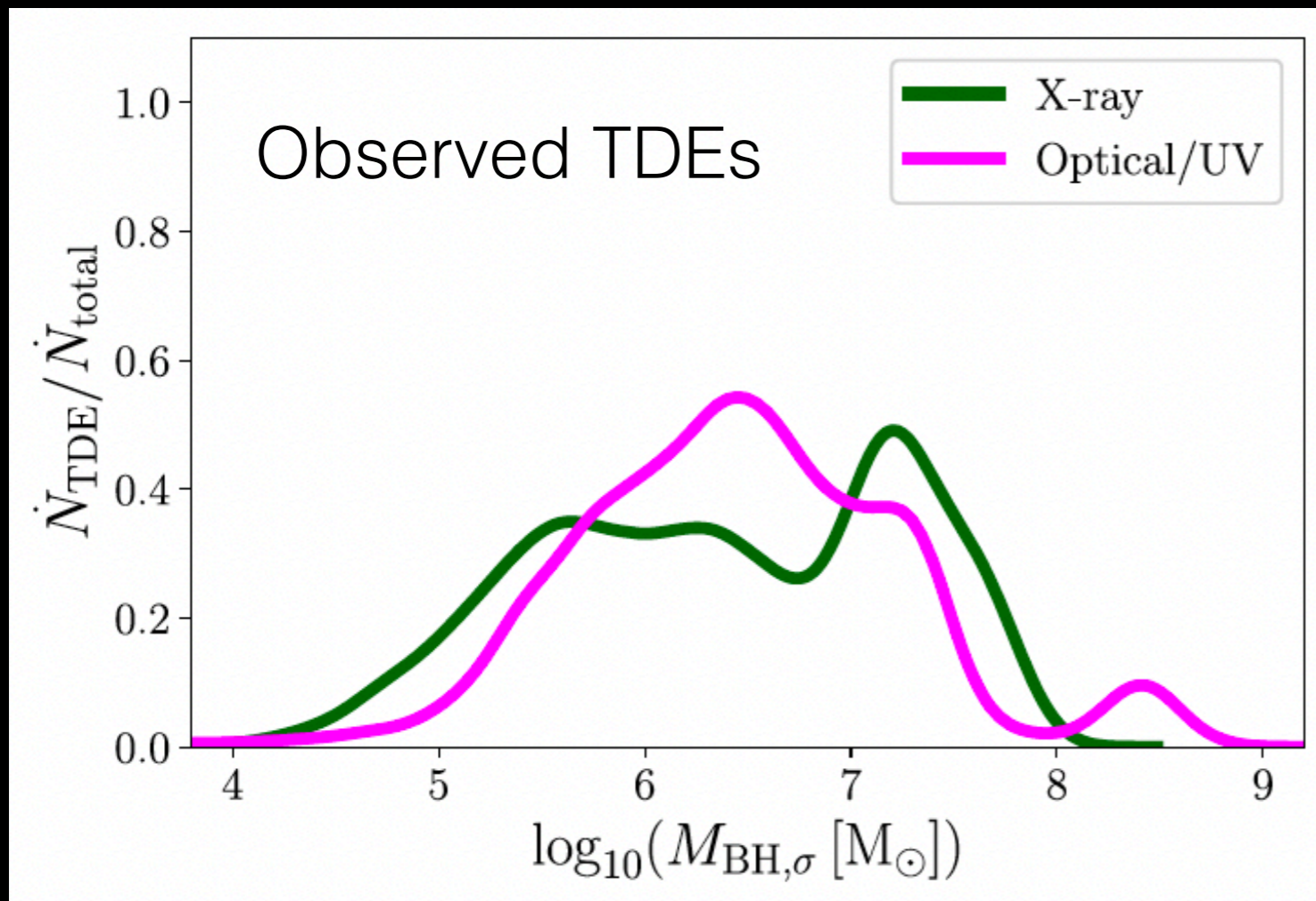
$$t_{\min} = \frac{\pi}{\sqrt{2}} \left(\frac{R_{\star}^3}{GM_{\star}} \right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{M_{\text{BH}}}{M_{\star}} \right)^{1/2}$$

$$\approx 40 \text{ days} \left(\frac{M_{\text{BH}}}{10^6 M_{\odot}} \right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{M_{\star}}{M_{\odot}} \right)^{-1} \left(\frac{R_{\star}}{R_{\odot}} \right)^{3/2}.$$

Evolution timescale depends on M_{BH}

Evans & Kochanek 1989; Phinney 1989; Lodato et al. 2009; Guillochon & Ramirez-Ruiz 2013; Tejeda et al. 2017; Golightly et al. 2019; Gafton & Rosswog 2019; Ryu et al. 2020

★ **Constrain the population of dormant supermassive black holes**

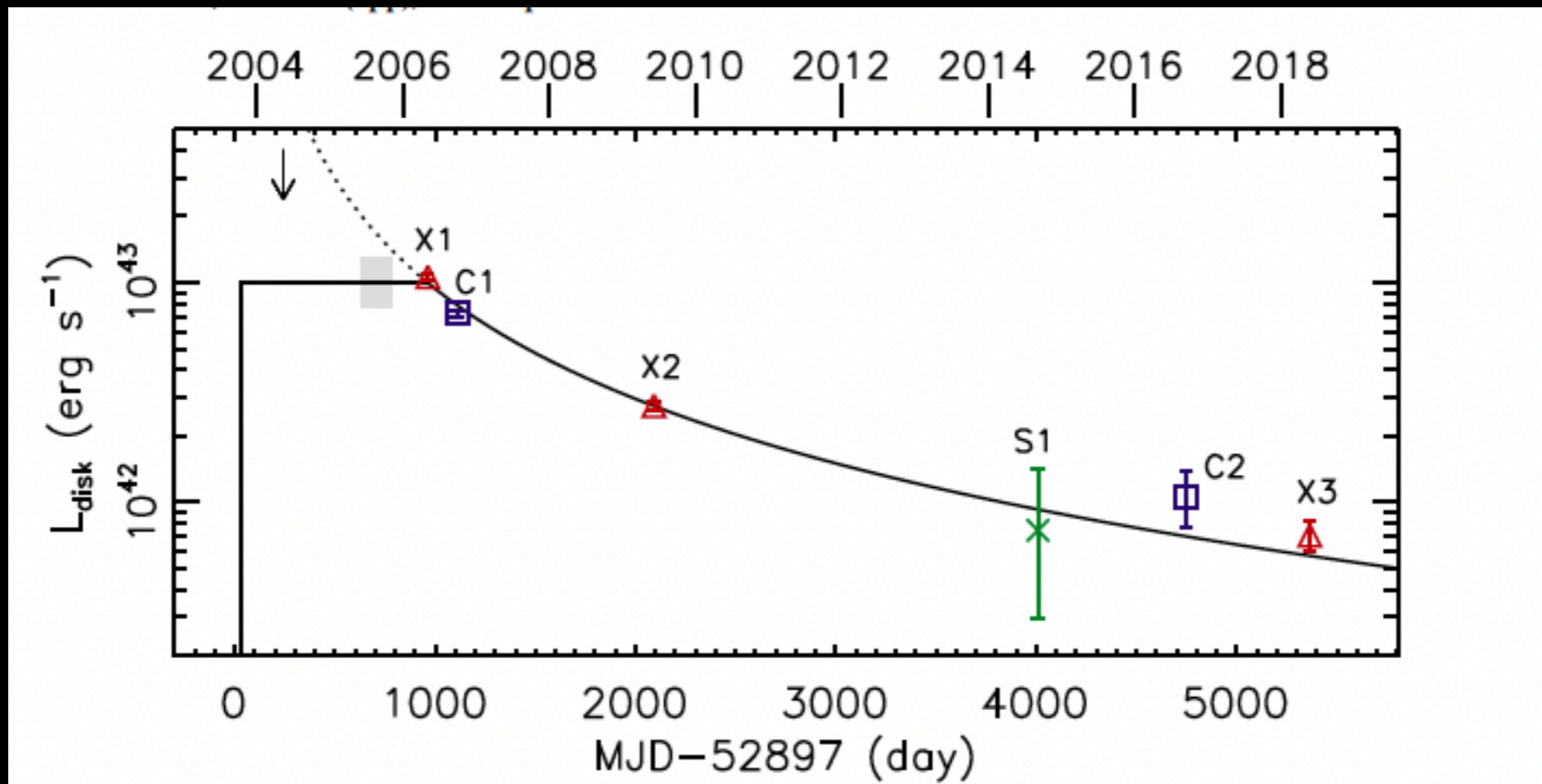


- Only 11 X-ray TDE with accurate M_{BH} estimates
- 22 optical TDE with accurate M_{BH} estimates

Wong, Pfister, LD, 2022

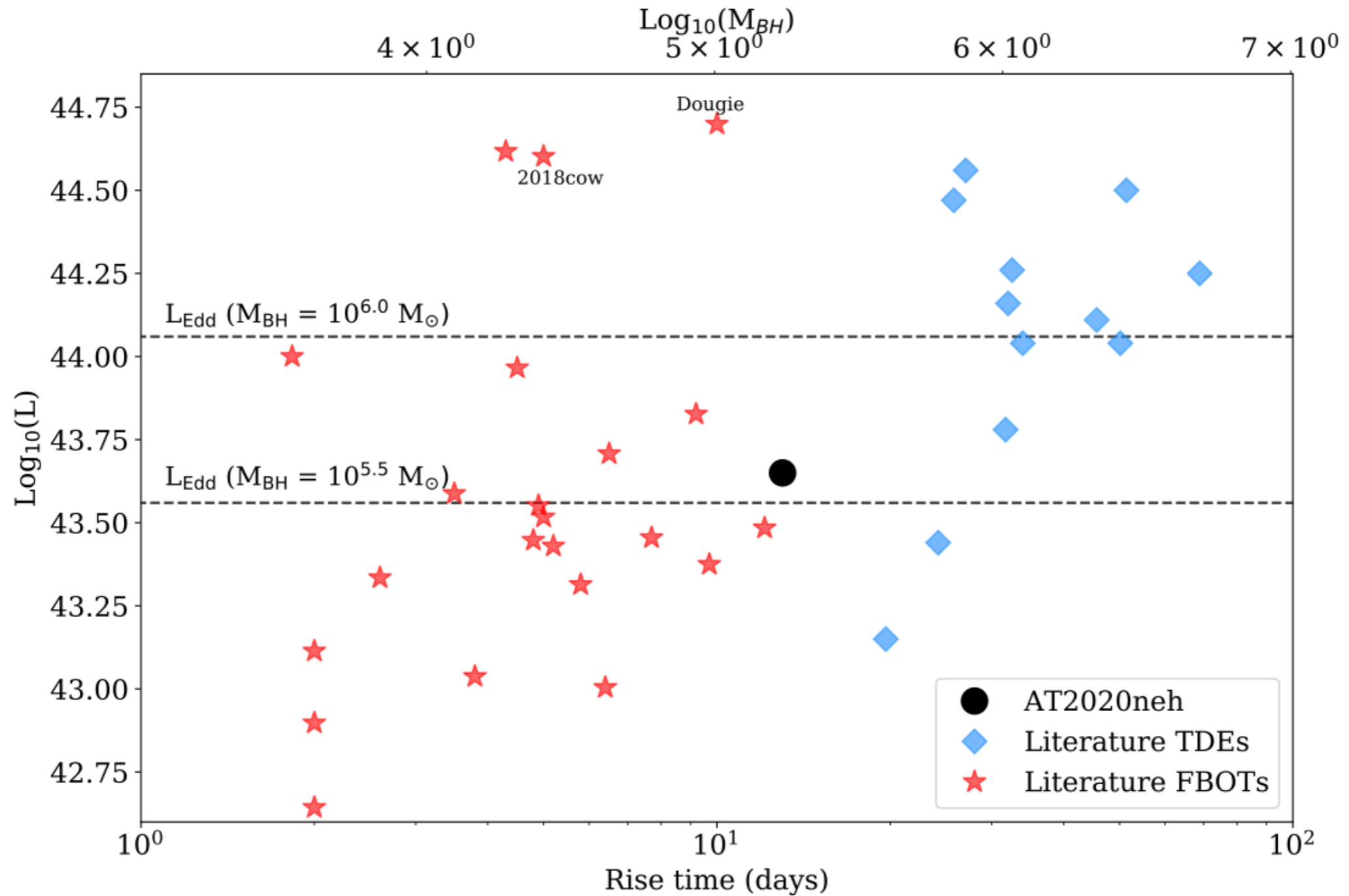
★ Detect intermediate-mass black holes

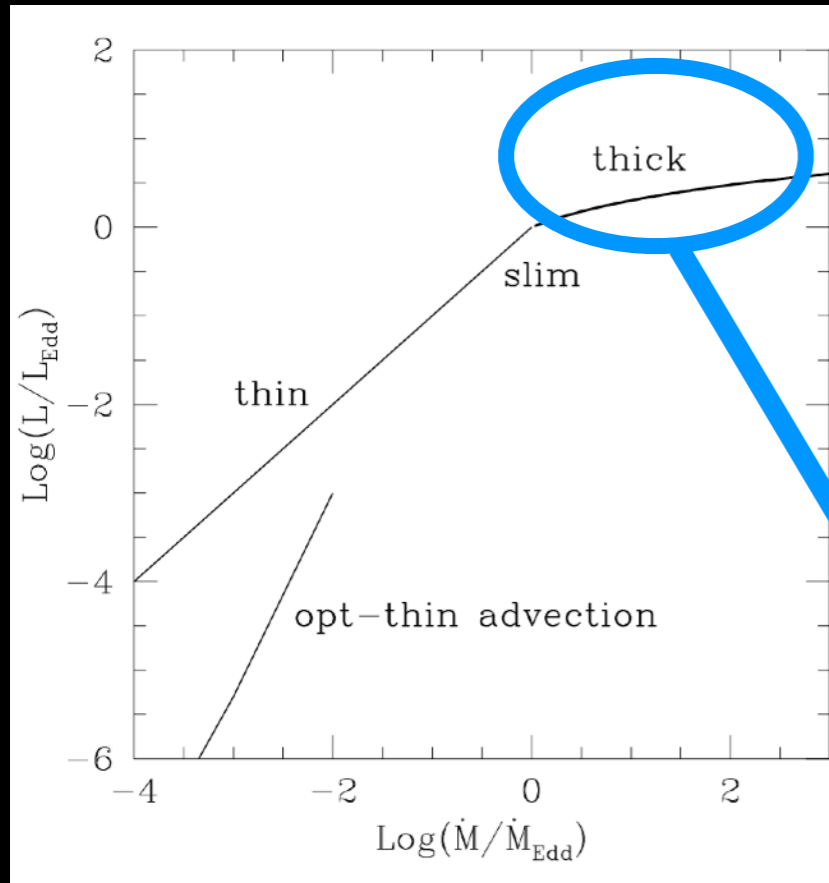
X-ray TDE around $10^5 M_{\odot}$ IMBH?



Lin et al. 2018, 2020

★ Detect intermediate-mass black holes





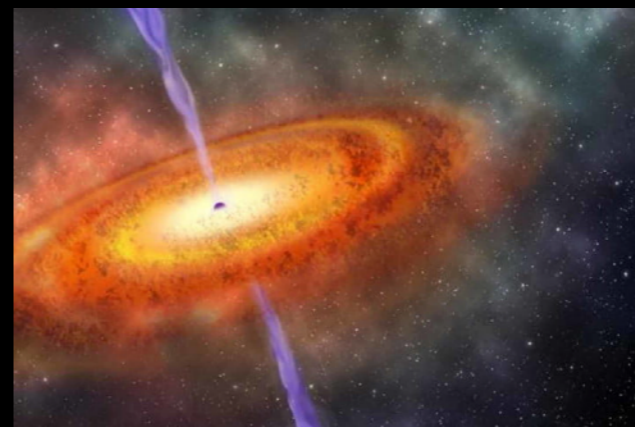
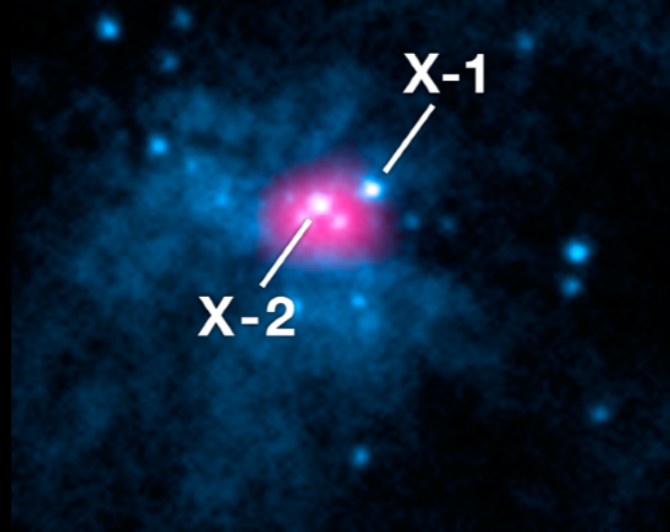
Ulmer 1999

★ Study (super-Eddington) black hole accretion & outflow physics

See review by LD, Lodato & Cheng, Space Science Reviews, 2022

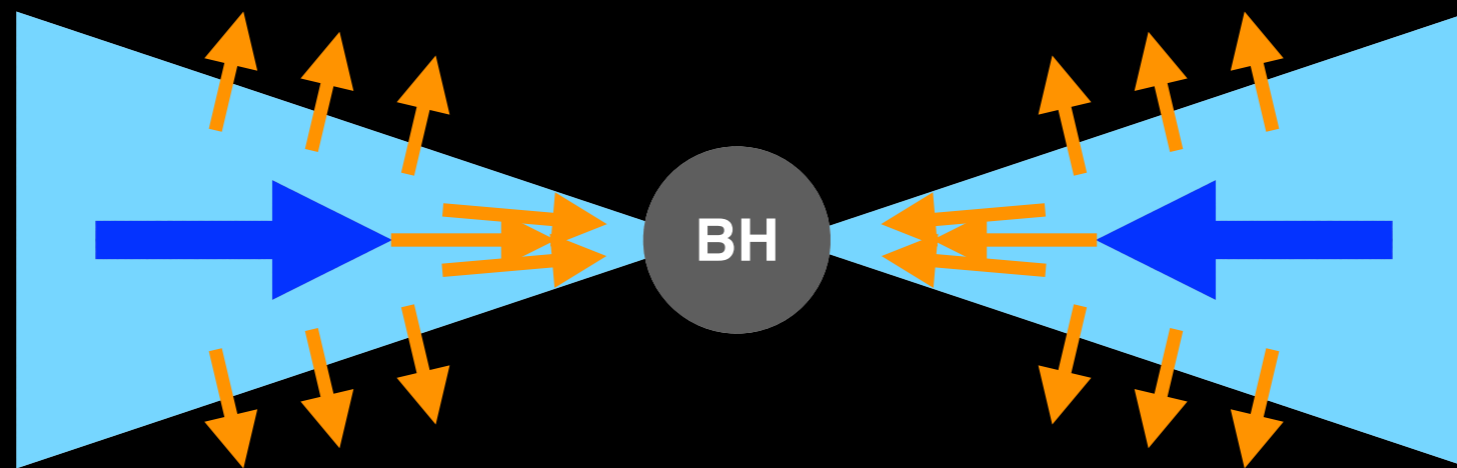
super-Eddington accretion

Ultra luminous X-ray sources (ULXs)



High-redshift quasars

Super-Eddington Accretion

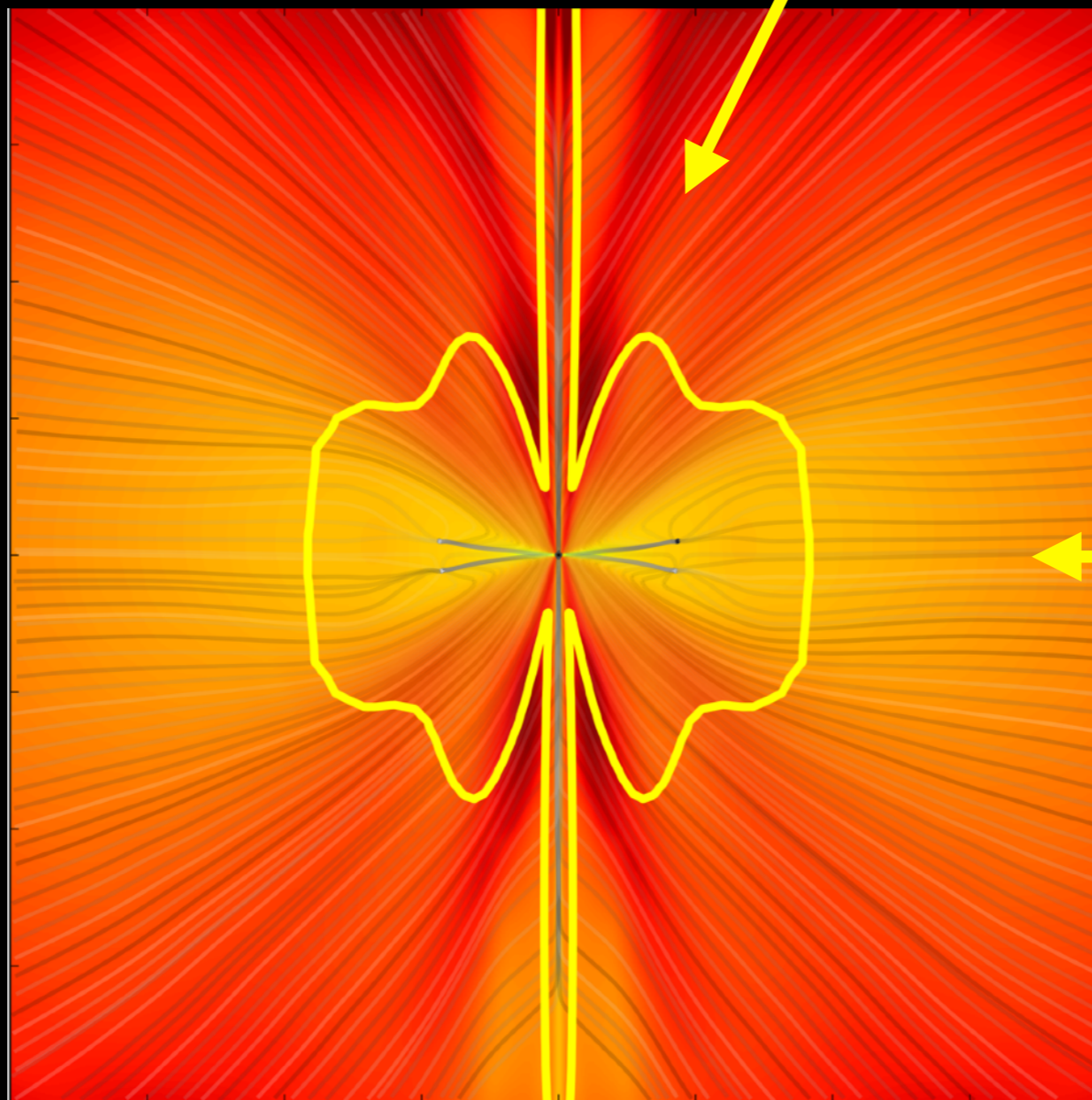


- Large radiation pressure
- Geometrically thick disk, radiation-driven winds
- Photons coupled to gas, photon trapping in the inner disk

Shakura & Sunyaev 1973, Begelman 1978, Abramowicz et al. 1988, Ulmer 1999

Super-Eddington Luminosity

Super-Eddington flux

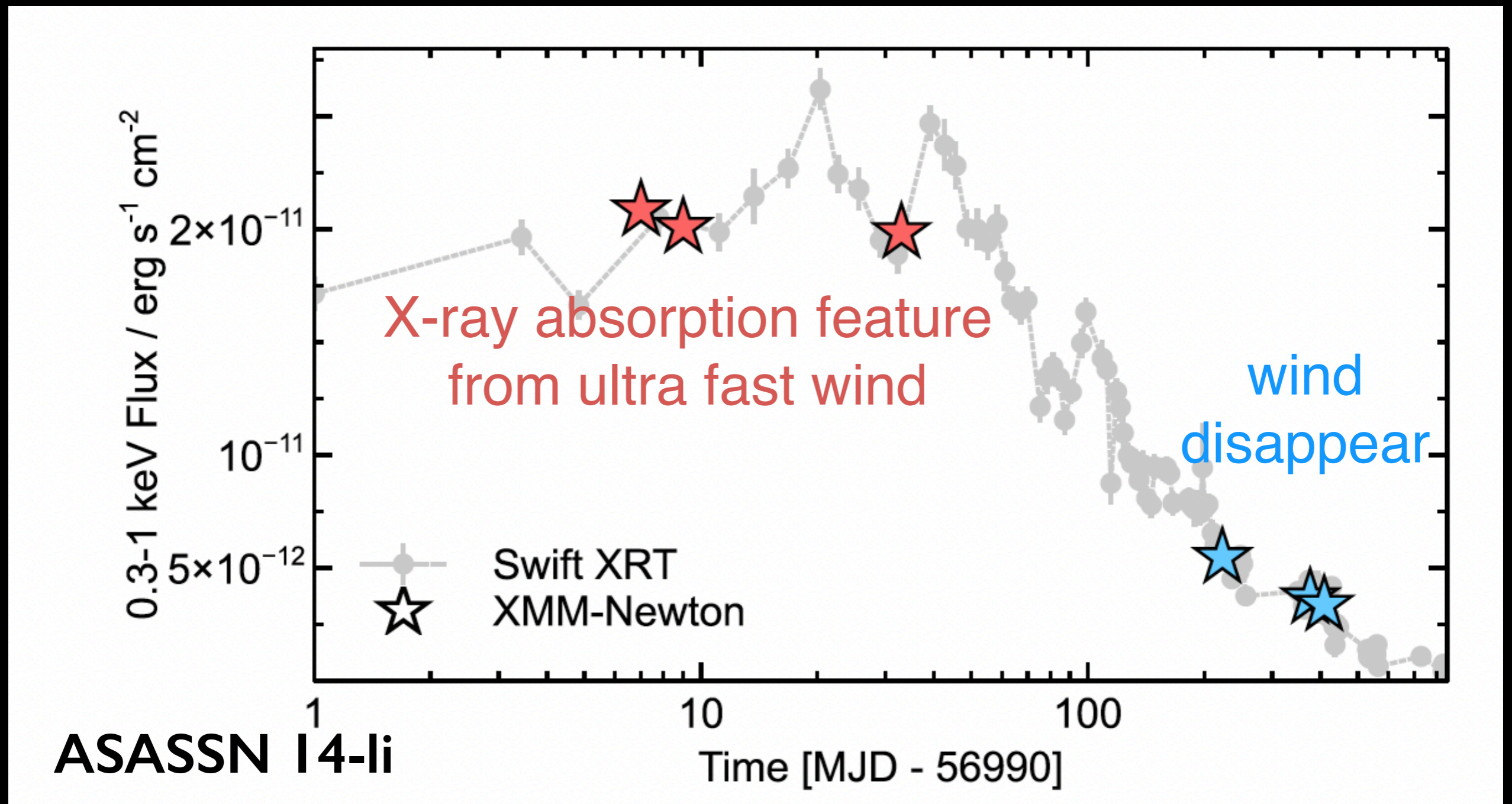


Eddington regulated flux

LD et al. 2018

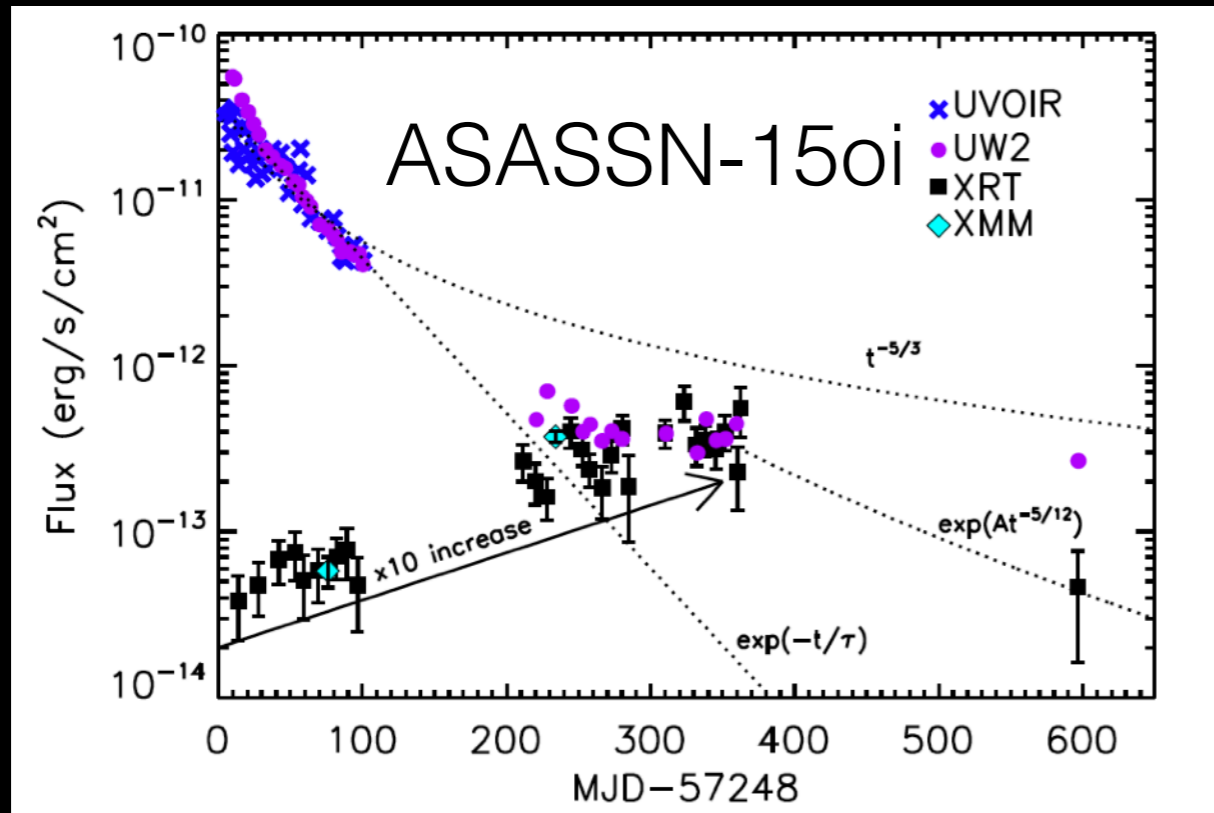
X-ray TDEs Launching Ultra-Fast Wind

wind \leftrightarrow accretion



X-ray vs. Optical TDEs

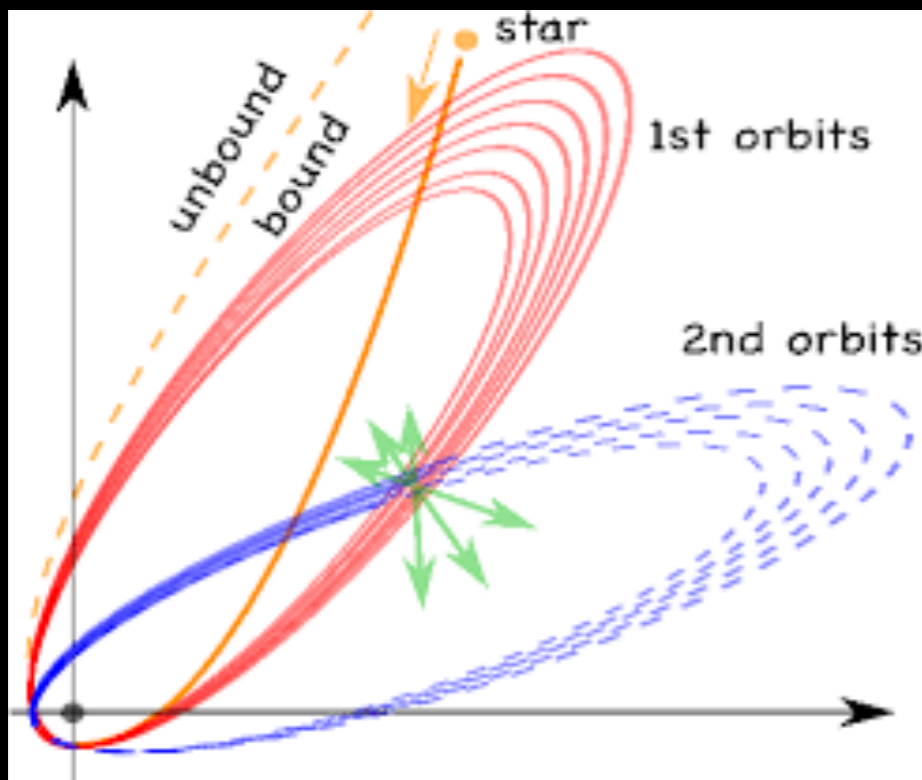
- ◆ At Peak: X-ray emissions with $T_{\text{BB}} \sim 10^{5-6}$ K vs. UV/optical emissions at peak with $T_{\text{BB}} \sim 10^4$ K
- ◆ Many optical TDEs rebrighten in X-rays at late time.



Gezari et al. 2017, Holoien et al. 2018,
Wevers et al. 2019, Hinkle et al. 2021,
Liu et al. 2022

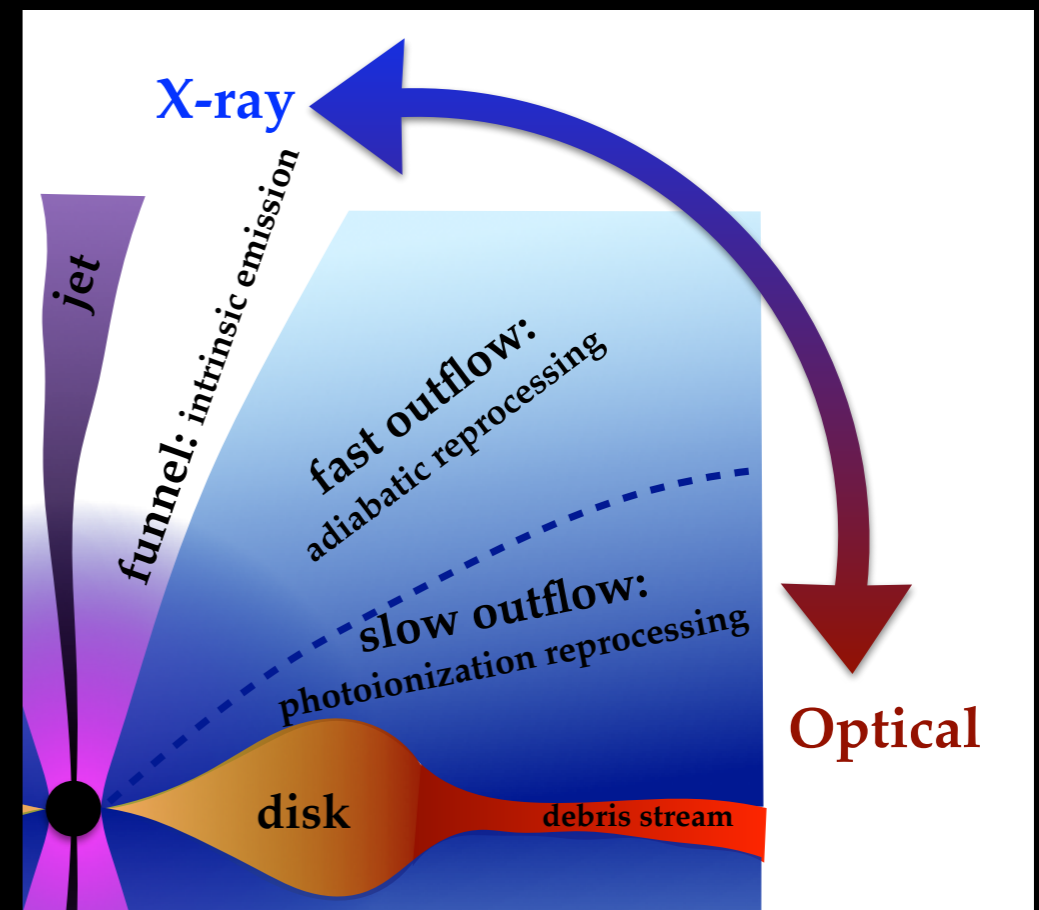
Optical TDEs: Delayed Accretion vs Reprocessing

- ✦ Optical produced by debris stream shocks
- ✦ Disks forms at later time producing X-rays



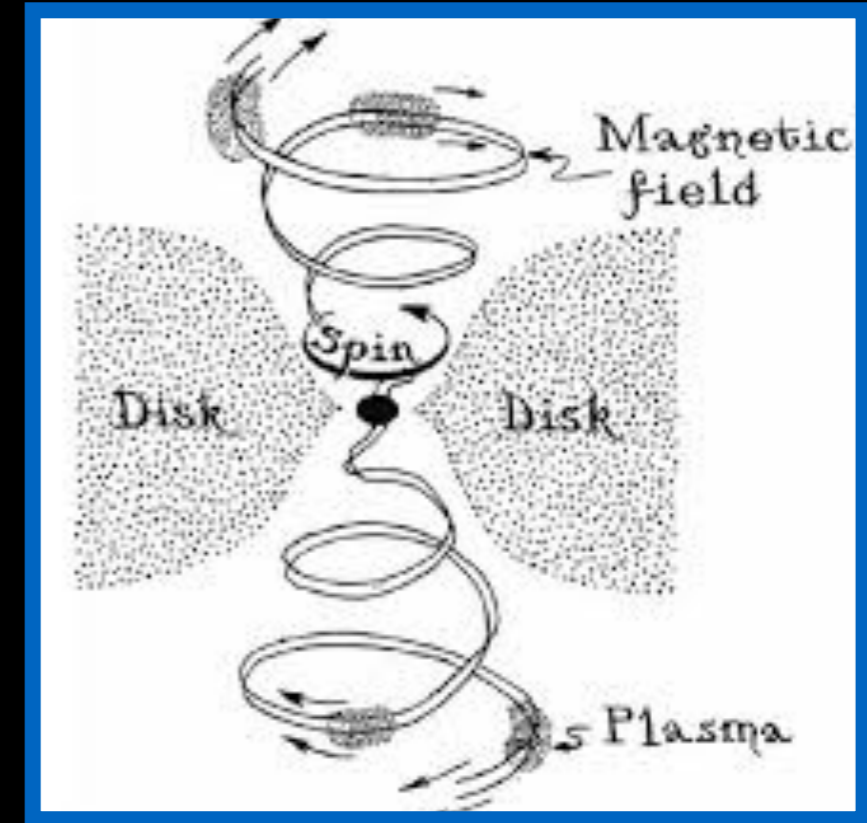
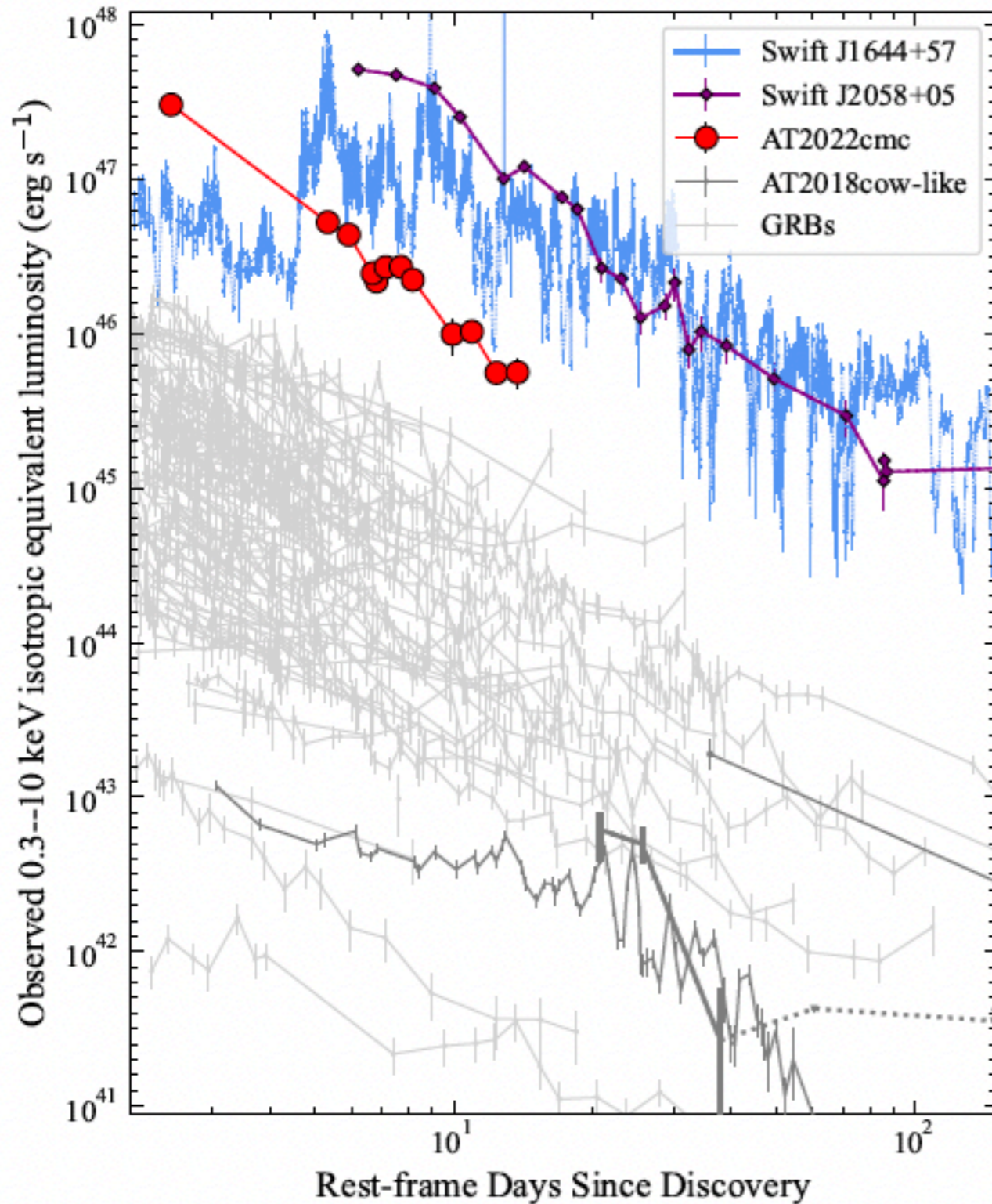
e.g. Piran et al. 2015, Bonnerot et al. 2021

- ✦ Optical emissions are reprocessing X-rays
- ✦ Funnel opens up at late time when X-rays leak out



e.g. LD et al. 2018; Thomsen, LD et al. 2022b

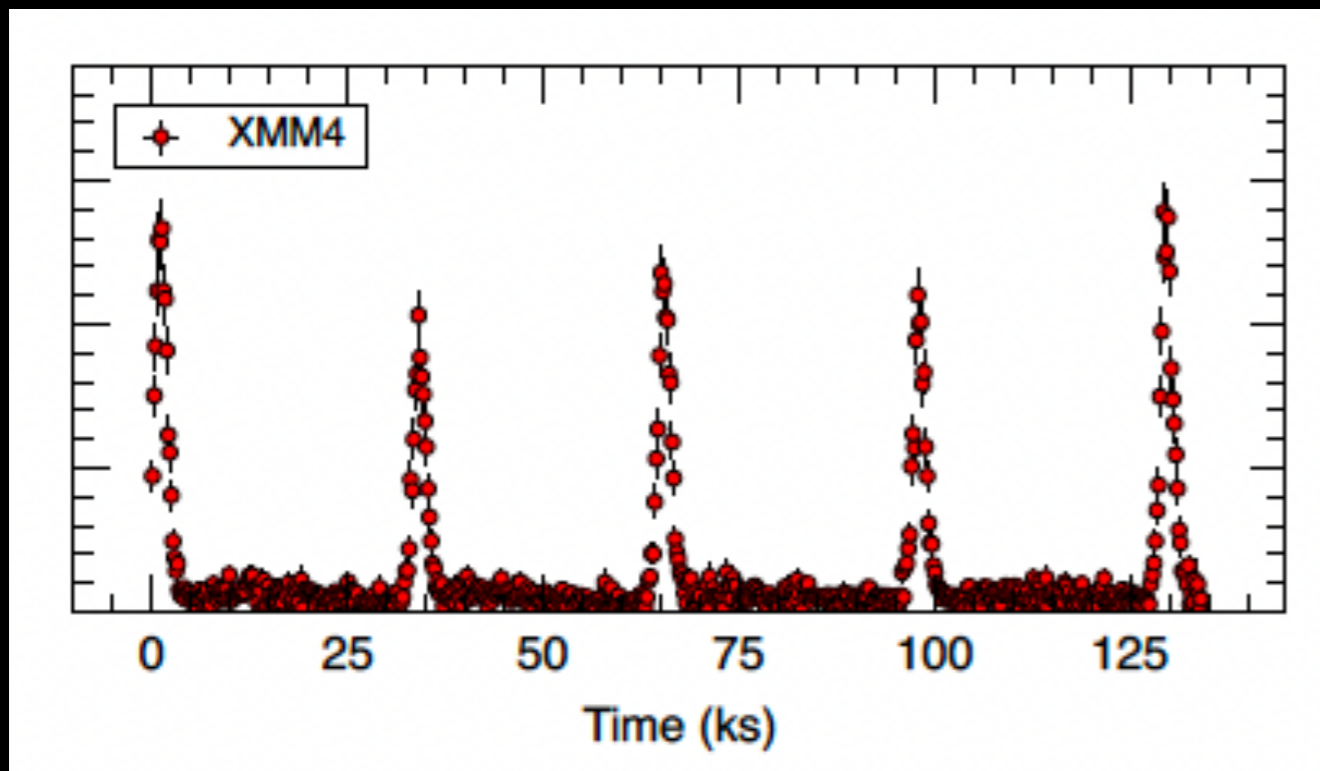
4 TDEs Producing Relativist Jets



Burrows et al 2011, Bloom et al 2011, Levan et al 2011, Zauderer et al 2011; Cenko et al. 2012; Brown et al. 2015; Andreoni et al. 2022; Pasham et al. 2023

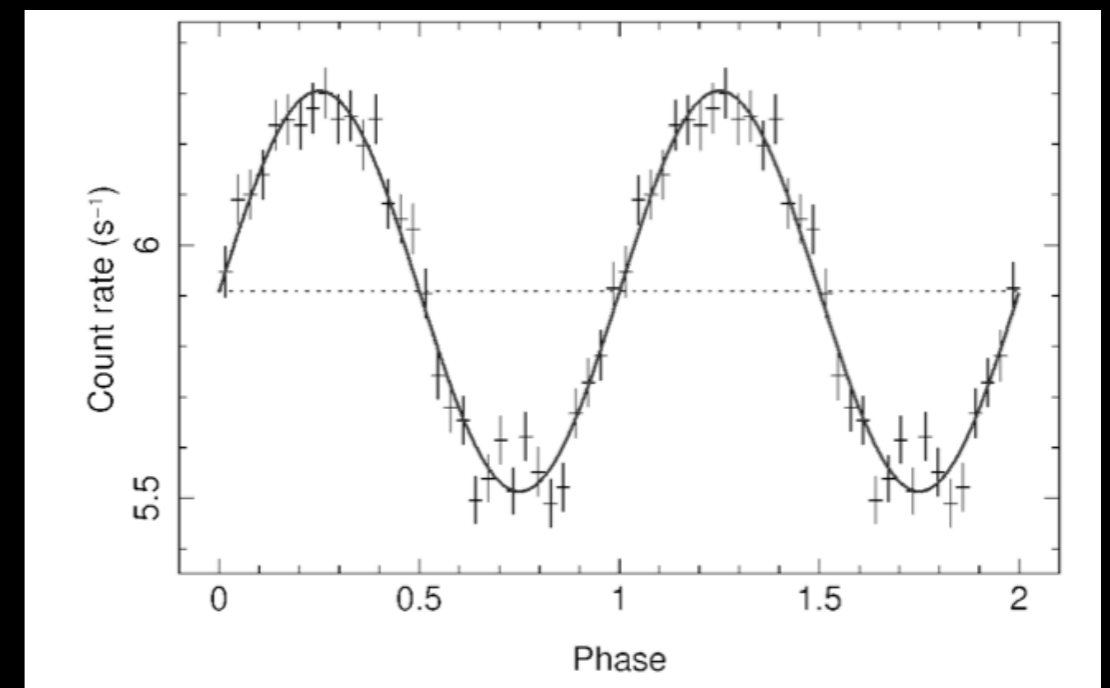
Quasi-Periodic Eruptions (QPEs)

◆ QPE:
GSN 069



Miniutti et al. 2019, 2022

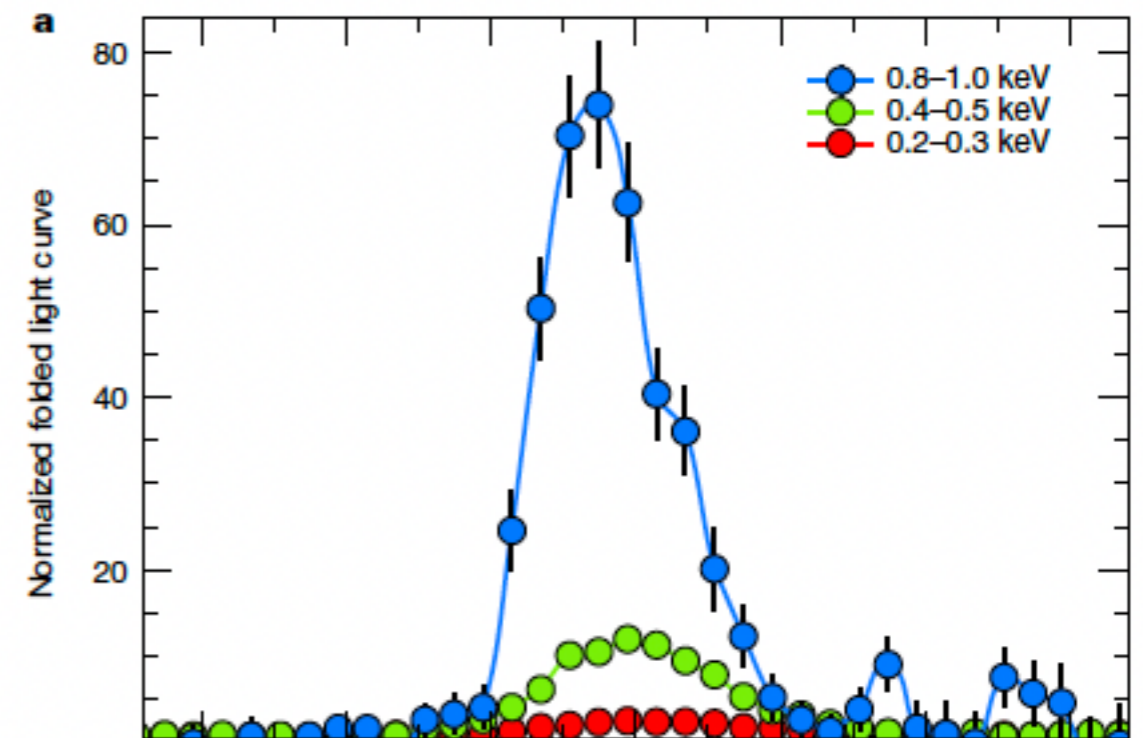
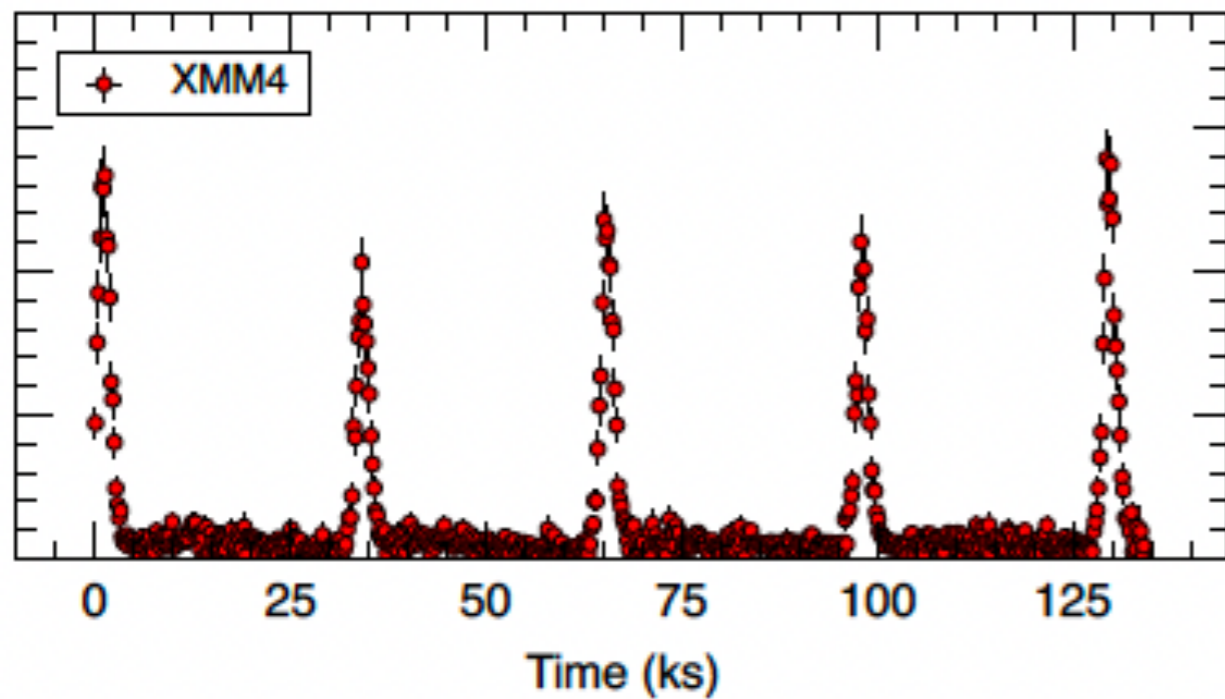
◆ QPO:
RE J1034+396



Gierlinski et al. 2008

QPE GSN 069

- High amplitude X-ray flares, $\sim 10^{42}$ erg s $^{-1}$
- Recurring every 9 hrs
- Very soft spectrum
- Small host black hole mass $\sim 10^{5-6} M_{\odot}$



Miniutii et al. 2019, 2022

QPE Population

- ✦ **GSN 069** (Miniutti et al. 2019, 2022) — QPE following a X-ray TDE
- ✦ **RX J1301.9+2747** (Giustini et al. 2020)
- ✦ **eRO-QPE1** (Arcodia et al. 2021)
- ✦ **eRO-QPE2** (Arcodia et al. 2021)
- ✦ **XMMSL1 J024916.6-041244** (Chakraborty et al. 2021) — QPE following a X-ray TDE
- ✦ **Tormund / AT 2019vcb** (Quintin et al. 2023) - QPE following an optical TDE

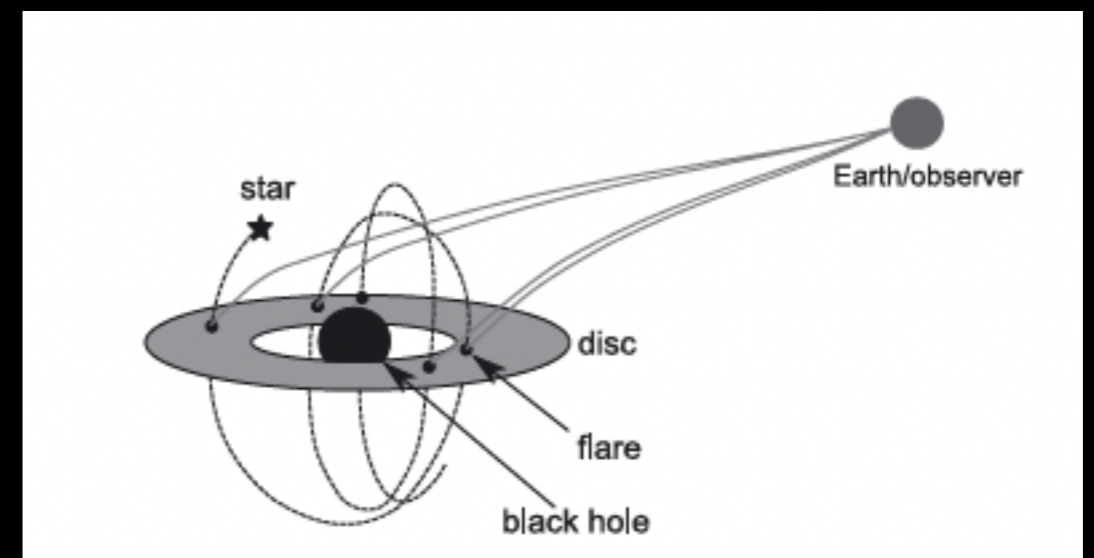
QPE Models

- ◆ Accretion disk instabilities (e.g. Pan et al. 2022)
- ◆ Tidal stripping of a star (e.g. King 2020; Zhao et al. 2022; Linial & Sari 2022; Wang et al. 2022; Chen et al. 2023)
- ◆ Collision between an orbiting object and an accretion disk (Xian et al. 2021; Linial & Metzger 2023)



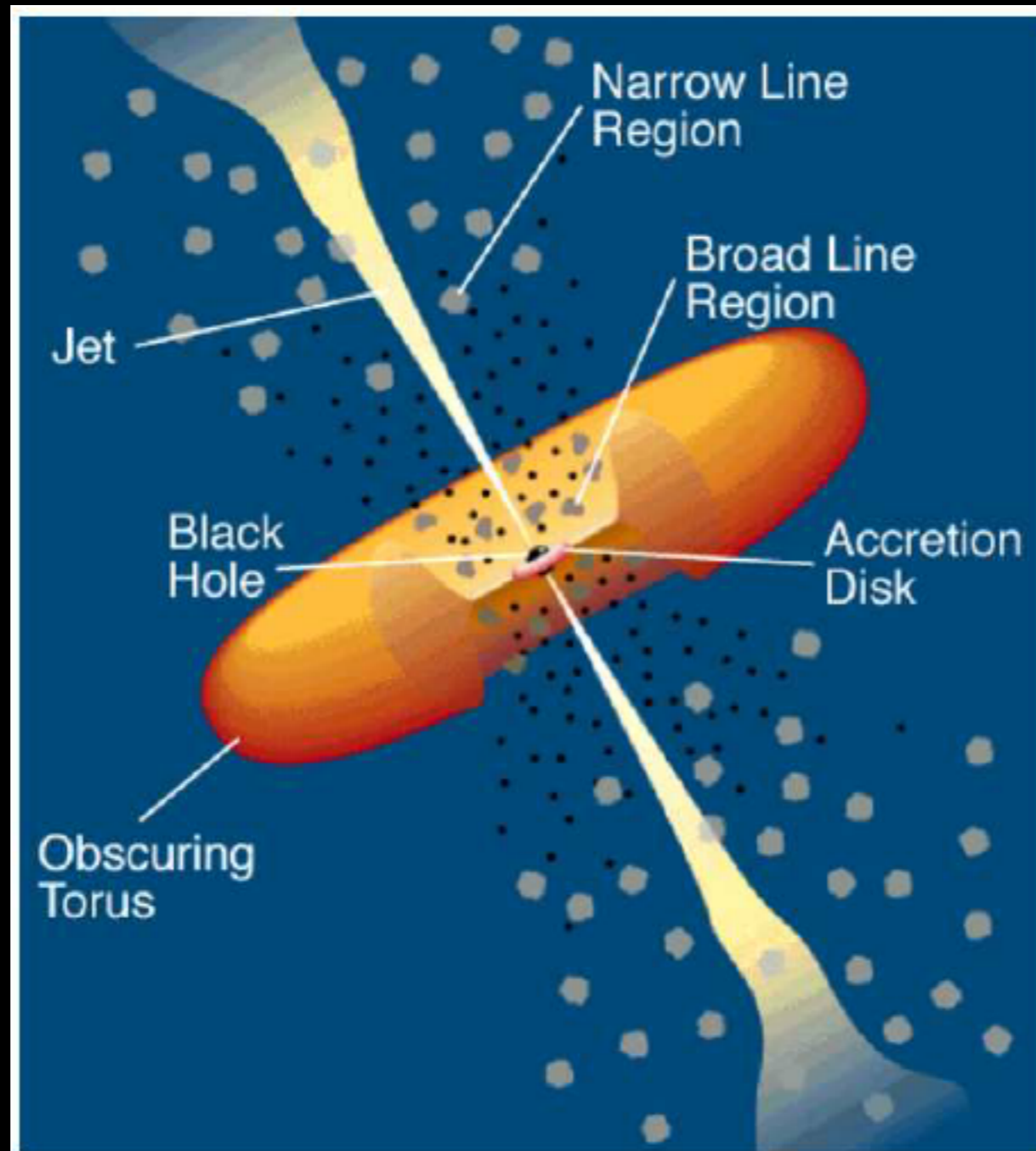
Collision pattern \leftrightarrow precession rates
set by black hole mass and spin

LD et al. 2010



Classical AGN Unification

Type I AGN (Unobscured)



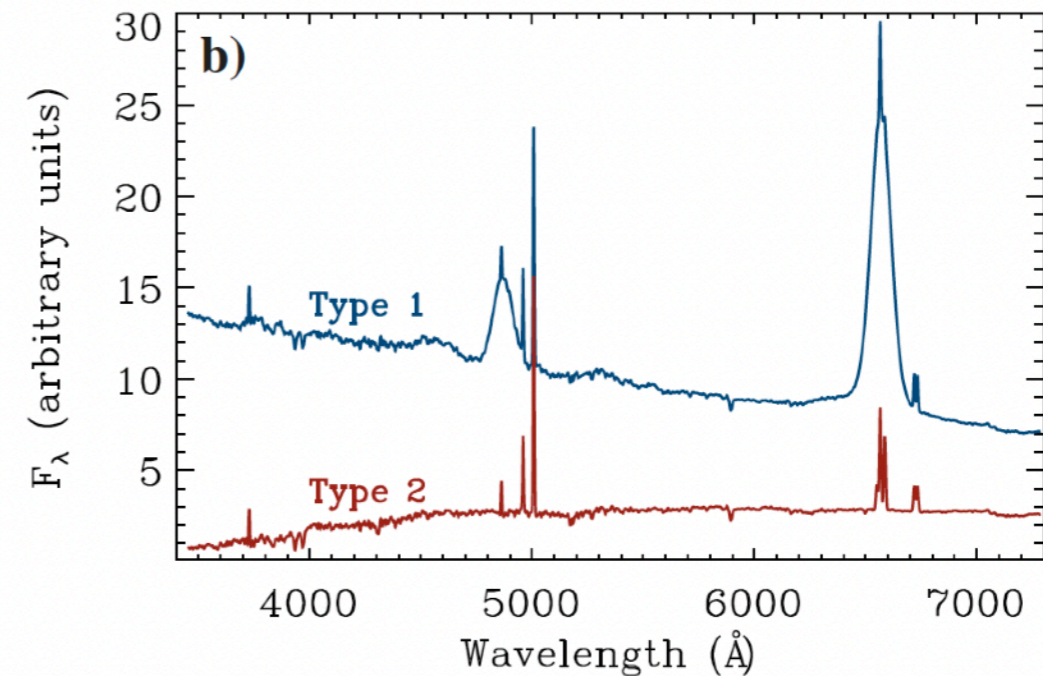
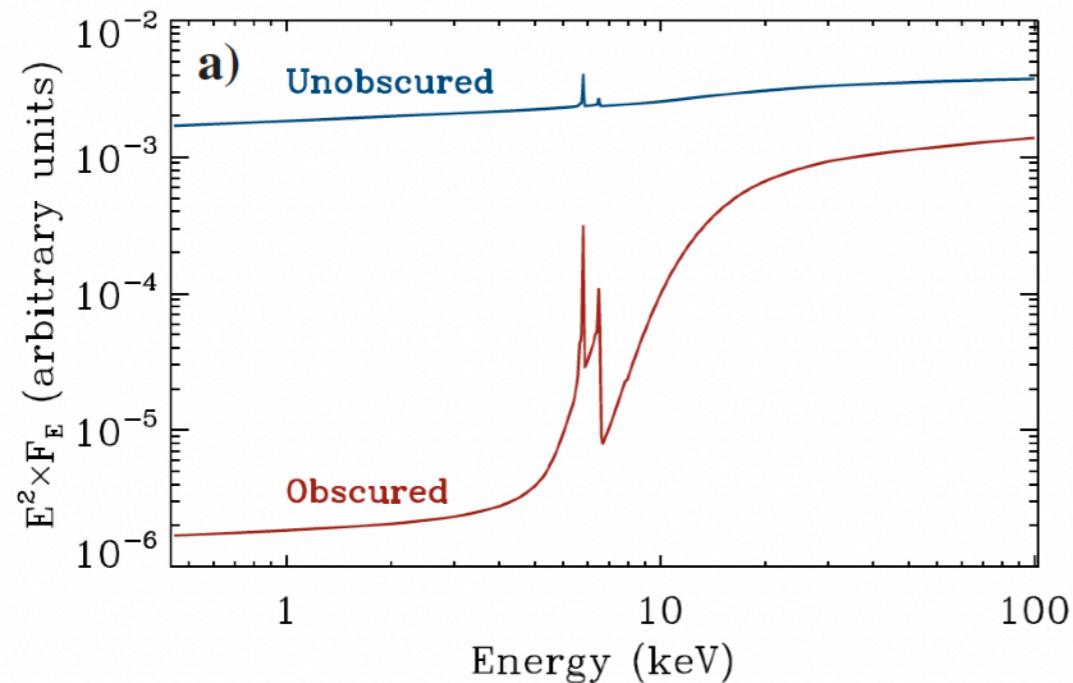
Type II AGN (Obscured)

Changing-Look AGNs: AGNs exhibiting changes in column density (X-ray) or continuum/broad lines (optical/UV)

Spectral classes identified in:

X-rays

UV/optical



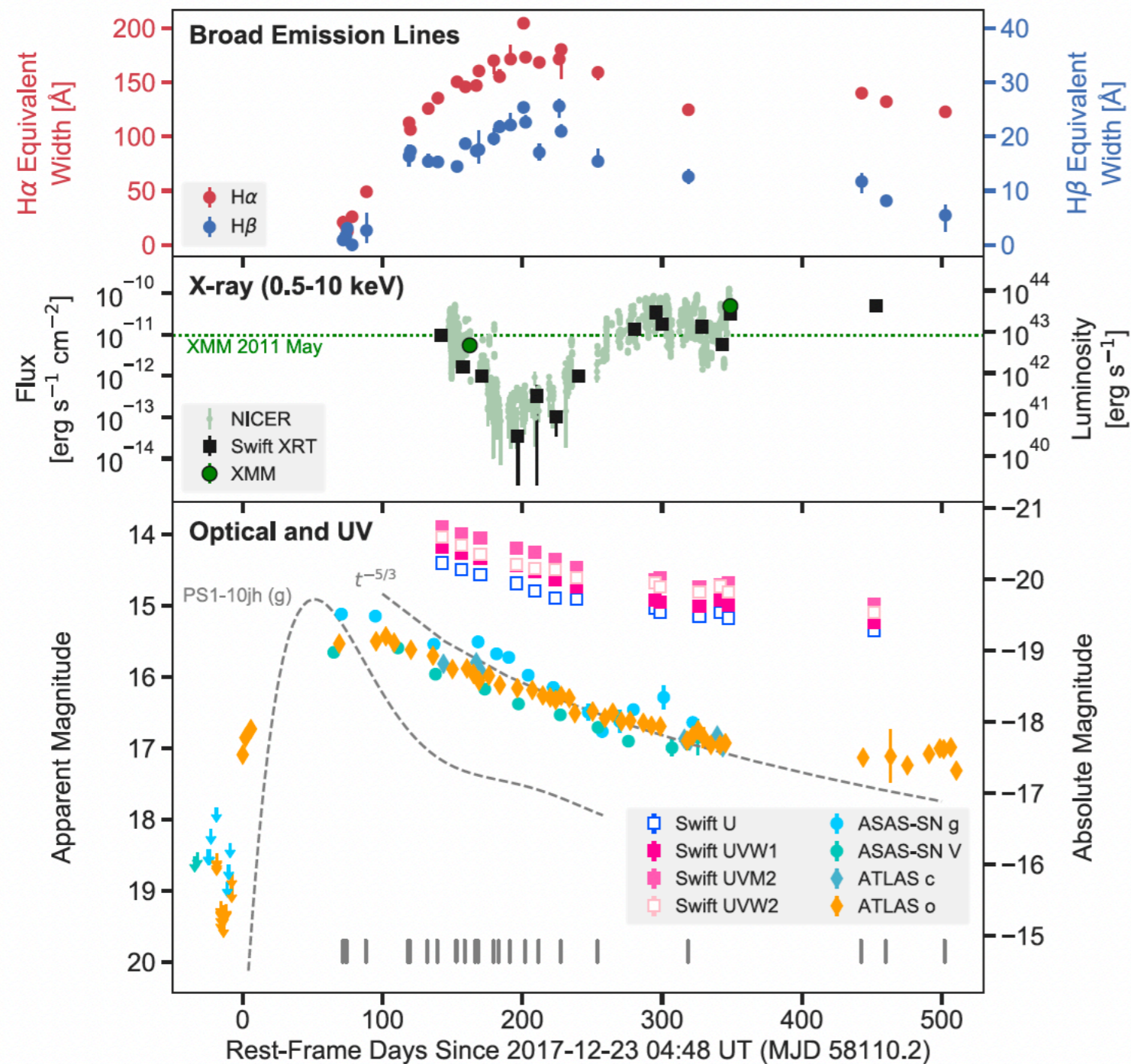
Spectral transitions usually driven by:

Changing obscuration (CO-AGN)

Changing accretion state (CS-AGN)

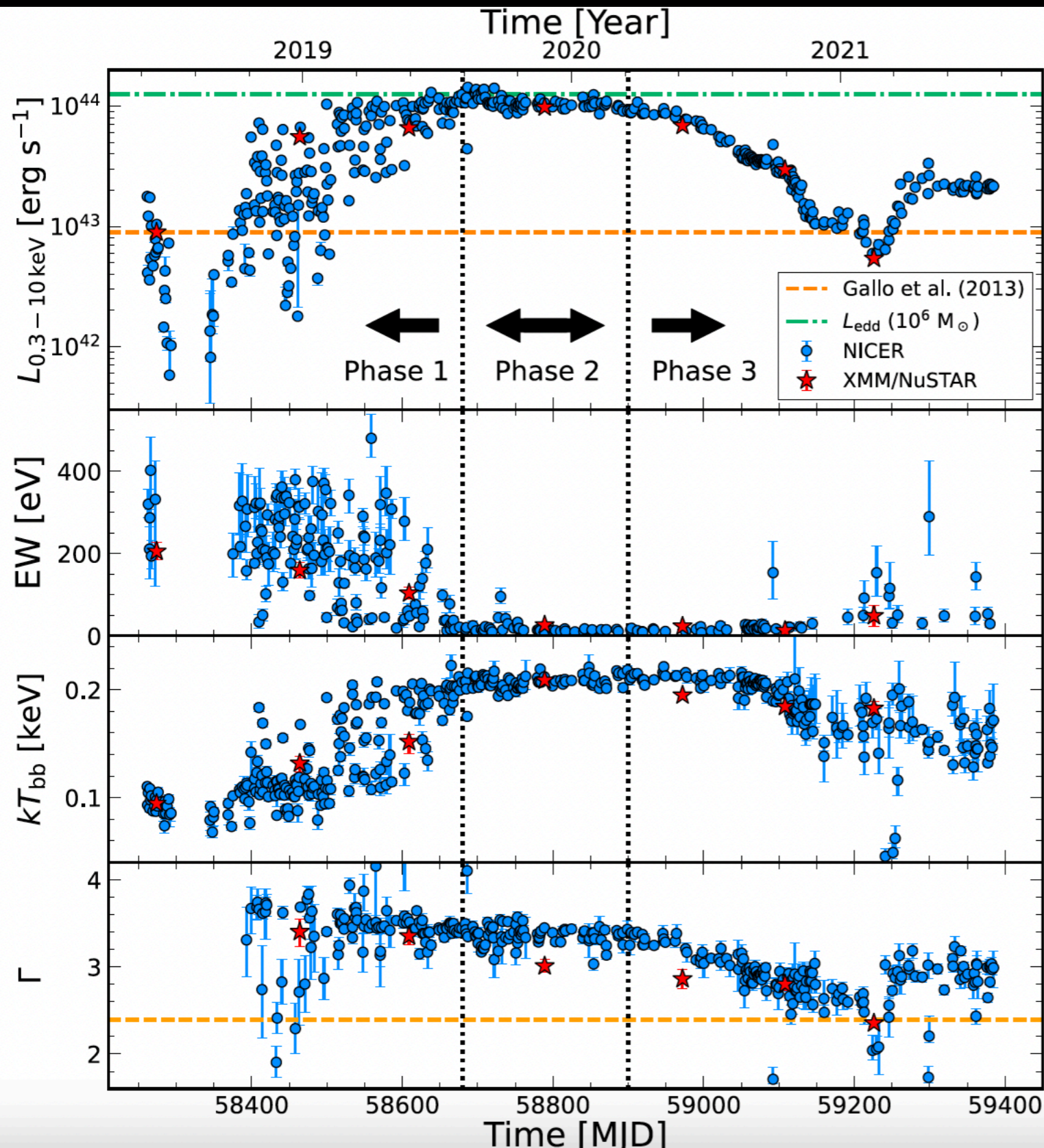
Review by Ricci & Trakhtenbrot 2022

The Peculiar Case of 1ES 1927+654



Trakhtenbrot et al. 2019;
Ricci et al. 2020, 2021;
Masterson et al. 2022;
Laha et al. 2022; Li et al.
2022

The Peculiar Case of 1ES 1927+654

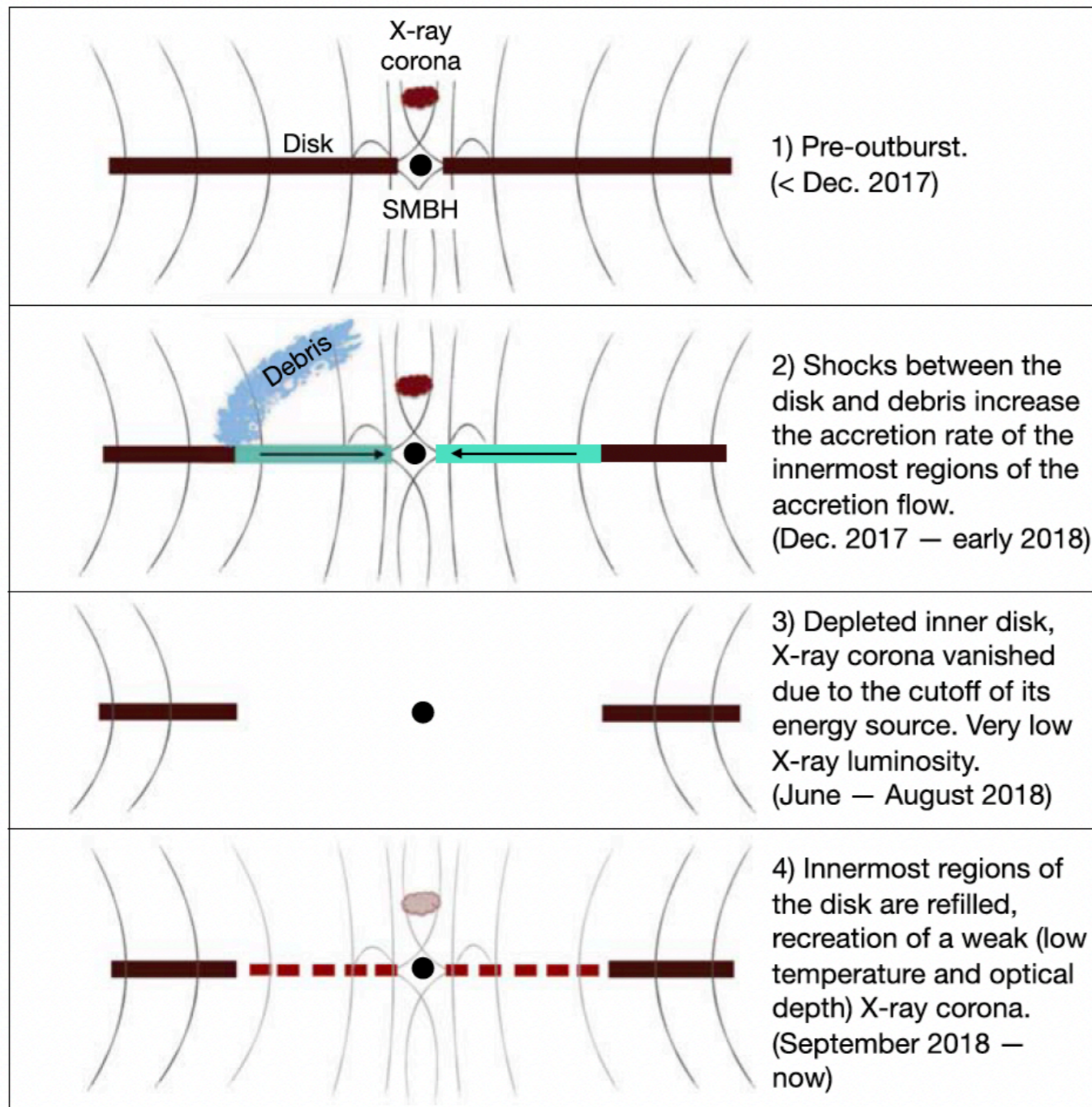


- ◆ Formation of the corona
- ◆ Super-Eddington luminosity?

Masterson et al. 2022

Li et al. 2022

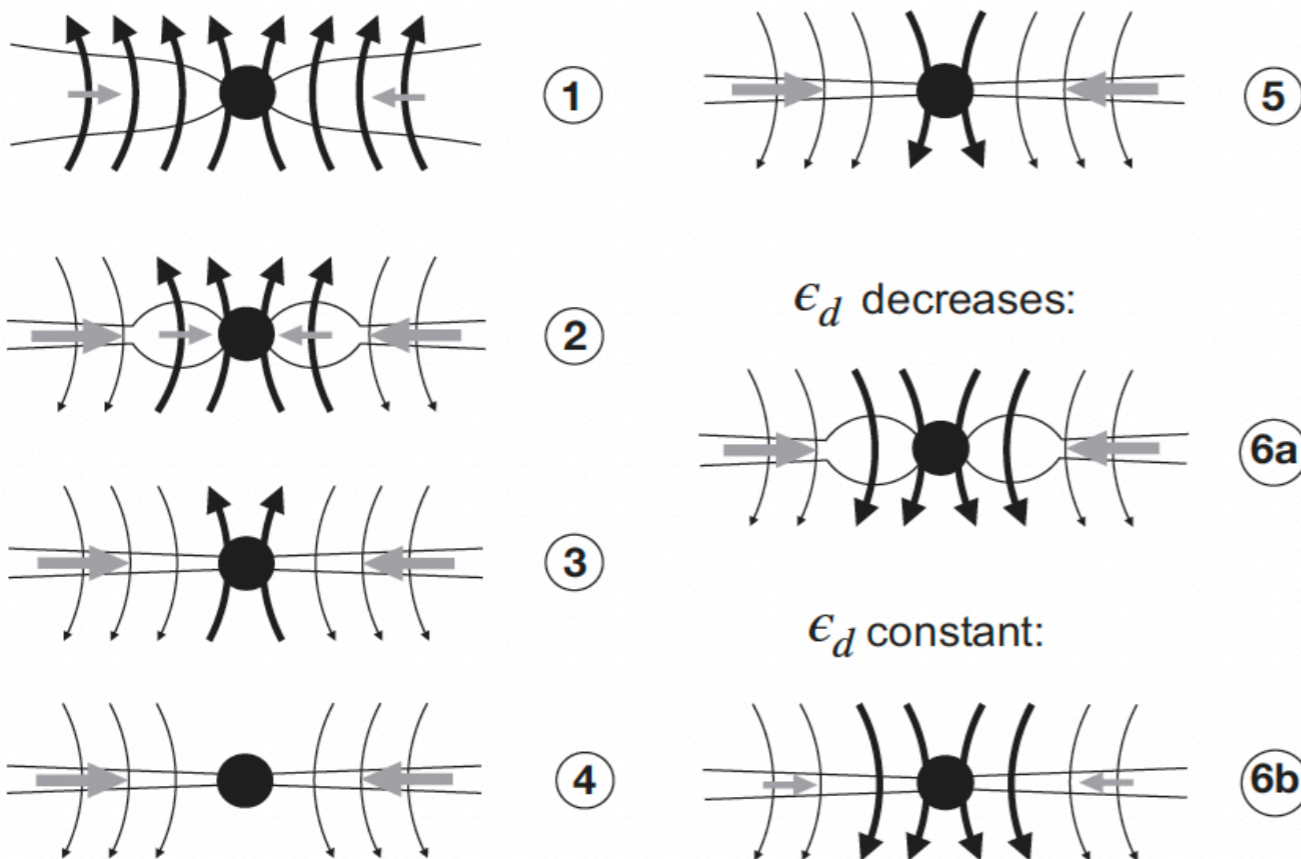
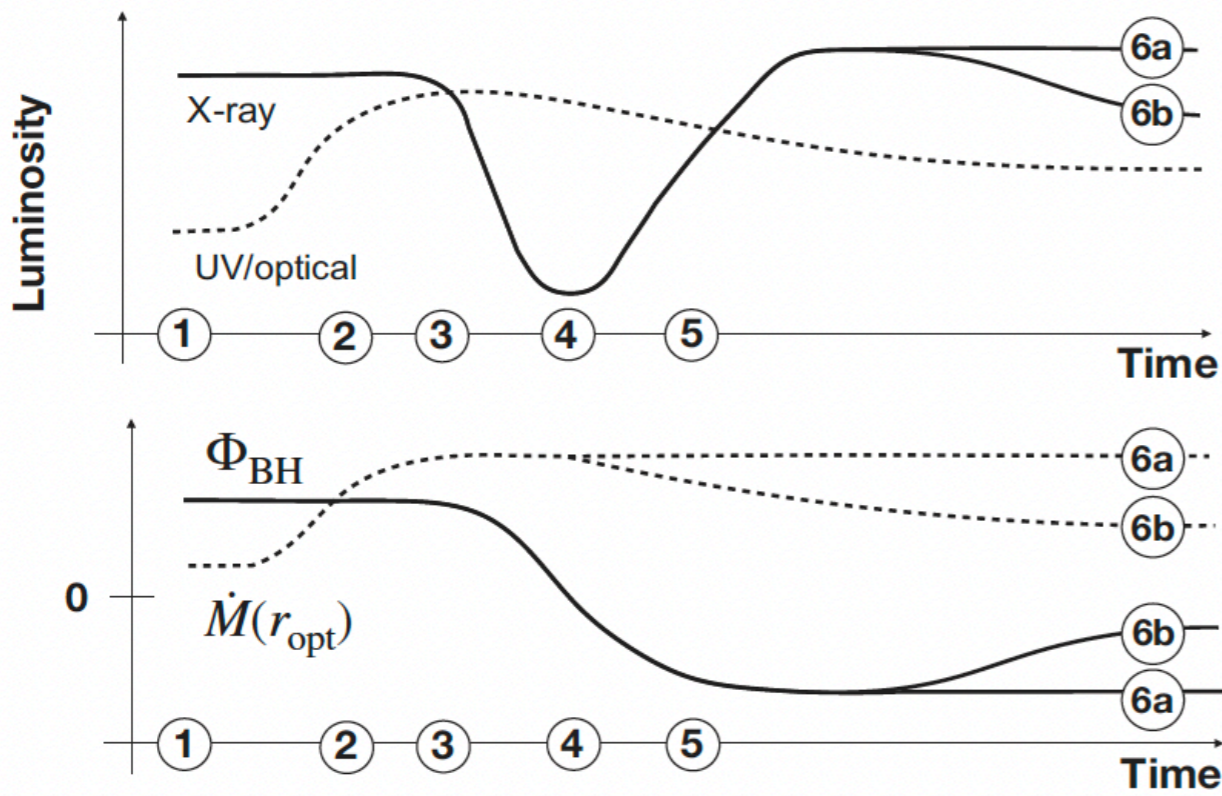
The Peculiar Case of 1ES 1927+654



✦ TDE in a pre-existing AGN?

Ricci et al. 2020

The Peculiar Case of 1ES 1927+654



◆ Inversion of disk magnetic flux?

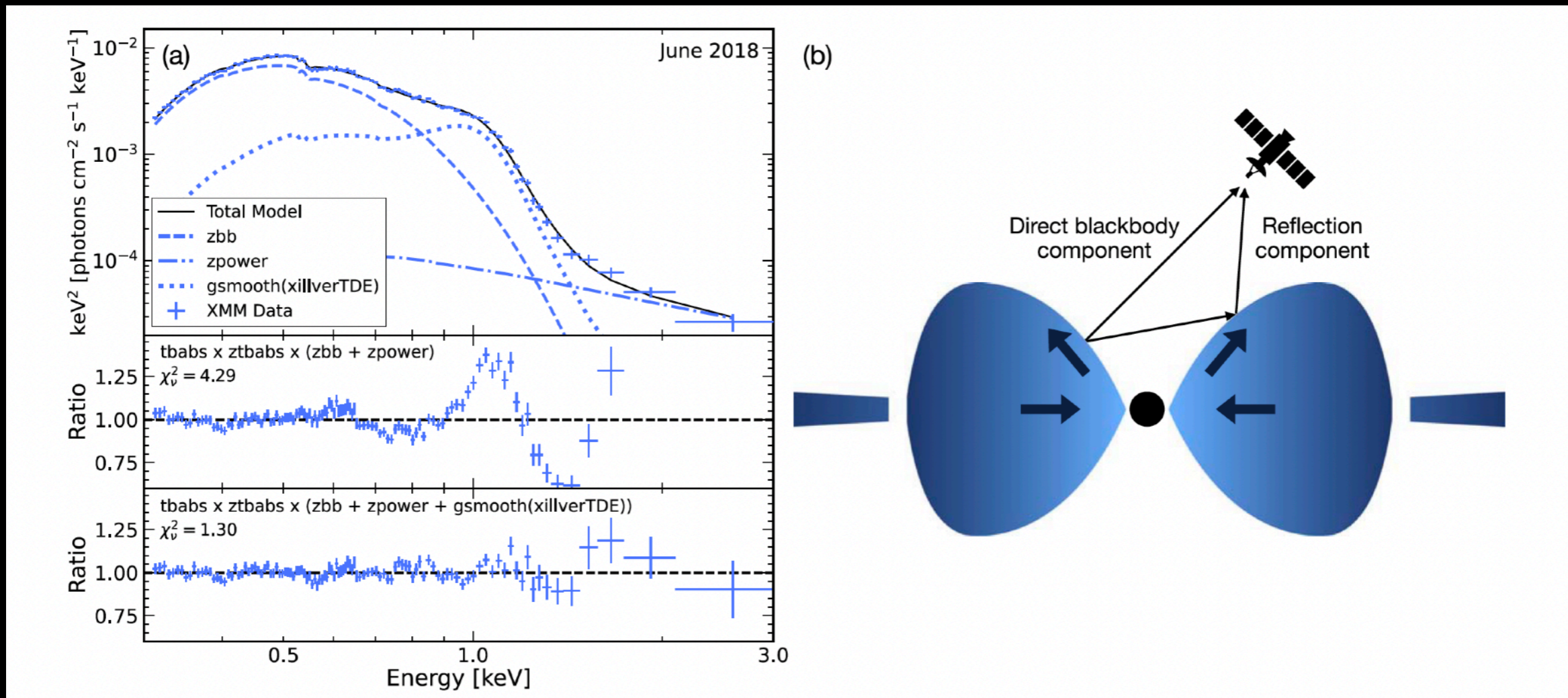
Scepi et al. 2021

The Peculiar Case of 1ES 1927+654

- ◆ X-ray continuum and 1 keV line modelled using X-ray reverberation from super-Eddington outflow

- ◆ Line profile: symmetric and blueshifted

(Thomsen, LD, et al. 2019, 2022a)



Masterson et al. 2022

Summary

Various types of X-ray nuclear transients have been detected, including TDEs, QPEs and changing-look AGNs.

TDEs can allow us to detect SMBHs and IMBHs, and study accretion, wind and jet physics around black holes.

6 QPEs are detected, with a few different types of theoretical models proposed.

Changing-look AGNs might not all be produced by the same mechanism — Some might teach us about corona formation and extreme accretion physics.

email: lixindai@hku.hk